



305 NE 102nd Ave Suite 100
Portland OR 97220

March 22nd, 2023

To: House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care

From: UCP Connections & UCP Mentors Re: Support for HB 2002

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin, Vice Chair Nelson and members of the Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Glenna Hayes and I am the Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator for UCP Connections and UCP Mentors. We are an organization that supports people 18 years and older with intellectual and developmental disabilities, we serve roughly 900 people, and in the two brokerages about 50 staff. I am writing on behalf of UCP Connections & UCP Mentors in support of HB2002.

Our community is full of people with intersectional identities who deserve the right to reproductive health care and gender affirming care. I can give you statistic and facts, but I think it is important to highlight the human aspect of this. Our health care is personal and should be decided by us, not the government. We have a dark history in Oregon of forced sterilization on Black, Indigenous people of color, and people with disabilities. We need to learn from this history. Our community wants the right to choose what is best for them, whatever that may look like.

Fairview was not that long ago, and we are still advocating with medical providers and communities against stigmas that people with disabilities have the right to relationships, sex, and families. People with disabilities have the right to explore and access the reproductive health care that they want. People with disabilities also have the right to access the gender affirming care they want. In a world that already doesn't feel welcoming to people with disabilities and LGBTQ+ folks, gender affirming care can be a light in a very dark place. Not only are the people we support impacted by this bill but many of our staff are as well.

With the political climate shifting to attack reproductive health and gender affirming care, trans rights, and the LGBTQ community we have a chance to take a stance and make Oregon a safe inclusive place. A place that has learned from our history to not repeat the same mistakes. A place where people have rights to bodily autonomy. Reflect on our history, listen to the communities being denied this care that is lifesaving to many. Please pass HB2002 to ensure reproductive and gender affirming health care access.

Sincerely,

Glenna Hayes

Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator of UCP Connections & UCP Mentors